

5 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] STAT
Special Assistant to the DCI

FROM: [REDACTED] STAT
DDA Representative

SUBJECT: Criteria for TOP SECRET Classification (U)

1. This memorandum responds to your direction of 2 February to the Implementation Working Group Security Review of CIA Recommendation 13, 14, 16 and 23 to draft criteria of definitions of categories of information that merit the TOP SECRET classification with a certain degree of specificity but not to include a long unusable list of examples. (U)

2. The Agency recently completed a similar exercise in compliance with implementation of E.O. 12065. That effort included a hard look, Directorate by Directorate, of holdings to arrive at a guide to classification including T.S. These Directorate guides were reviewed. It was noted that NFAC had 28 categories of information requiring T.S. classification. The DDS&T had 73 and the DDO 6. The DDO guide was not available for review but [REDACTED] your DDO representative, mentioned a very low figure of T.S. DDO publication in 1978. STAT (U)

3. It was noted that NFAC and DDS&T had considerable redundancy in respective guides. Essentially the same substantive description is entered under each of the E.O. suggestions of things that could be classified. Therefore, the total number of categories is considerably smaller. (U)

4. It is also noted that the DDS&T provides guides for "IN" and "OUT" cables separately from hard copy material although both may address the same topics. Again an indication that their high number of examples of T.S. is repetitious. (U)

5. Allowing for duplication, the guides were studied in the expectation that critical review of these T.S. candidates could lower the number of types of information that are mandated as the T.S. level and thus move toward the goal of reducing the volume of T.S. in the Agency. (U)

6. Some success was achieved but nothing that would result in a significant reduction of overall volume of T.S. material. In example, the DDS&T guide requires T.S. (SCI) classification for:

"(1.5) Photographic Interpretation reports, Technical Reports, the studies produced from information derived from intelligence sources and methods on foreign activities capabilities or intentions" and

"(1.6) Film and graphics derived or produced from aerial or satellite photography" and



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"(1.9) "IN" cables indicating sources and methods of foreign intentions, capabilities, and activities" and

"(1.10) "OUT" cables indicating sources and methods of foreign intentions, capabilities and activities."

While some of the material included in these categories may require T.S. classification, it appears questionable to accept a requirement that all such material be classified at the T.S. level. (U)

7. This same generic approach is used in the NFAC classification guide. And a review of those guides leads to the same opinion, i.e., that the categories are too broad to be effective. (U)

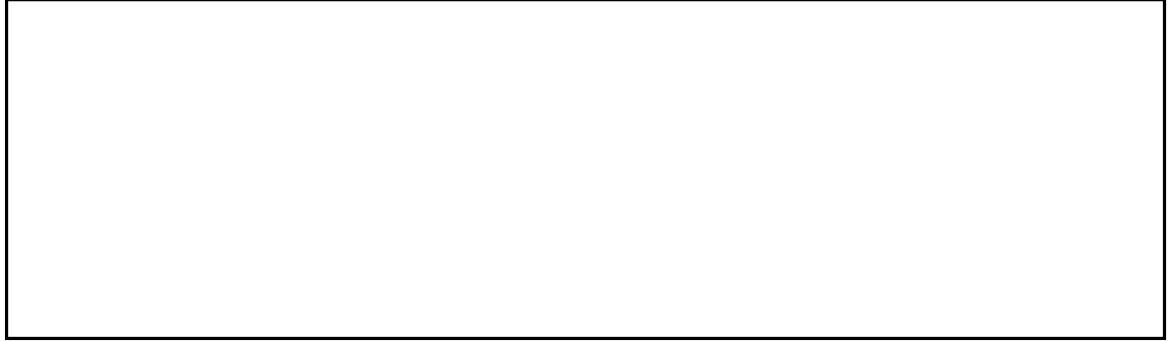
8. There are other factors involved in the consideration of why the Agency holds so much T.S. material that relate to the Agency's role as recipient of material classified by others. These factors have been mentioned and are noted here in view of the assumption that the preponderance of CIA's T.S. holdings are provided by other members of the Community, and unless they can be persuaded to lower the classification, CIA must comply with the requirements of honoring the other guy's classification. (U)

9. The following examples are offered for consideration as reasonably expected to warrant TOP SECRET classification:

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25X1

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d. Identification of human sources. (U)

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